Smuggling of Textiles

*646. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations to curb the smuggling of synthetic textiles, both yarn and fabrics into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). Representations have been received in the past about smuggling of synthetic textiles into the country. Though Indian manufactured synthetic textiles compare favorable in quality, print and taxtur with imported ones, they are more expensive due to various factors such as lack of economies of scale, higher energy cost, etc.

The Government has, however, permitted setting up of new factories and expansion of the existing capacities for the manufacture of polyester fibre and polyester yarn to enable the manufacturers to achieve the economies of scale thereby reducing the cost of manufacture and hence the incentive for smuggling.

The anti-smuggling drive has also been intensified simultaneously and close coordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[*Translation*]

National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

*647. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1991-92 for the development of National Highways;

(b) the number of the proposals accorded approval; and

(c) the amount of the proposals accorded approval; and

(d) the amount released, proposal-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent 43 proposals for development of National Highways during 1991-92. Out of these, 20 proposals amounting to Rs. 109.045 crores were approved. No amount was released for these works during 1991-92, since by end of March, 1992, actual execution of the works had not commenced.

Investment from Mutual Funds

*648. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA.
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected by the nationalised banks under mutual funds scheme during the last three years;

(b) the amount of investment made out of the fund, State-wise; and